



College Update
April 14, 2016

Happy Thursday?!

This edition of the *College Update* is arriving a few days early due to my travel plans. As you may know, Lynette Bates and Kerry Gabrielson are accompanying me to the Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting in Chicago this week. If all goes according to plan, we will return to Colorado next week on Tuesday. In addition to peer reviewer training for me and specific sessions related to the accreditation process, we will have an opportunity to provide feedback on both the new Assurance System, which worked well for us, and the Open Pathways process.

Next Thursday (April 21st), we will hold Open Forum sessions on each campus. As has been our practice, the Valley campus meeting will be at noon in the Auditorium. The Trinidad gathering will be held at 4:00 pm in the Pioneer Room. Along with updates from the April Presidents Council and Board meetings in Denver, we will also have discussions about happenings around Trinidad State. Please attend if you can – as usual, we'll serve cookies!

Next Friday (April 22nd), the Strategic Planning Committee will meet in the afternoon. Agenda items include a review of progress on the current implementation plan (2015-2016) and a preview of the upcoming strategic planning process. This summer, we will write an annual implementation plan for 2016-2017 based on the current strategic plan. Next fall, we will begin preparing a new, long-range, multi-year strategic plan for the institution, since the current document expires in 2017.

As part of the budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year, we solicited your input on equipment needs and personnel requests. We received twenty separate requests related to personnel, some for new positions and some for increased hours. We also received at least fourteen requests for equipment, ranging from \$90,000 for the replacement of the existing backup system for the information technology department to \$50 for a digital baby scale for Nursing. There were also several pleas for commercial grade shredders. Thank you for assisting us in identifying these ongoing needs. These personnel and equipment suggestions will be considered, along with operational budget requests, as we continue to plan for FY17. While it is unlikely that we will be able to meet all of these needs today, this information allows us to prioritize and plan for the coming years.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Hope your next week is a great one; the *College Update* will return on Monday, April 25th!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,
President